

## AMERICAN REPORT

29 JAN 1973

## LETTERS

Dear Editors:

I am writing to clarify various ambiguous statements attributed to me—and, incidentally, to correct the misspelling of my name—in Robert Maurer's article on press censorship (AR, Jan. 1-15).

Discussing the Central Intelligence Agency's attempt to pro-censor Victor Marchetti's forthcoming book on the C.I.A., Maurer quotes me as follows: "We have a reputation to maintain at Knopf, and so we would consult with the C.I.A. as we would with any outside expert prior to publication."

The quote implies that Knopf would, as did Harper & Row in the McCoy (*The Politics Of Heroin In Southeast Asia*) case, actively cooperate with the C.I.A. In its review of our manuscript; as I remember the context, and as those of us at Knopf have repeatedly said, publicly and otherwise, in regard to this question, we would definitely not actively solicit or encourage C.I.A. comment on the Marchetti manuscript, nor would we in any other way voluntarily "consult" the agency; we steadfastly feel that any such decision to consult is strictly the author's.

But we are also aware that, as in the case of *The Invisible Government* by Wise and Ross, the C.I.A. would be quite able to find advance galleys of the manuscript on its own, that they would more than likely offer a list of suggested corrections and emendations, and that we would certainly read and consider such a list—and that we would just as certainly reserve the right to ignore entirely whatever they had to say. As to my alleged reference to the maintenance of Knopf's "reputation," I genuinely cannot recall saying—or thinking—that at all.

Further, the statement that Knopf "maintain(s) that they do not want to publish any material harmful to the national security" is a rather incomplete expression of our view, which was rather more exhaustively explained to Mr. Maurer: that what may be deemed "harmful" is certainly

open to question, and that the author's, or the publisher's, sense of harmfulness will not very likely coincide with the Central Intelligence Agency's sense of harmfulness.

Later in the article, according to Mr. Maurer, I said that "the industry is not about to publish anything it believes would harm the national security." Here, again, the same principle of the fuzzy nature of what constitutes "harm" applies.

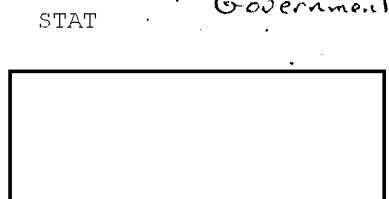
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address myself to these points, and let me commend Mr. Maurer and American Report for an otherwise comprehensible and comprehensive article.

Daniel Okrent

Editor

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.  
New York, N.Y.CIA 1.64 Marchetti,  
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